

**From:** Tori Heath  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/11/02 9:05pm  
**Subject:** my opinion

I have been using computer (s) since 1980. I need them because I am a CPA, but also wish I had more time to "play, explore." Bill Gates has done incredibly wonderful things for computer technology. HOWEVER, I think his success has gone to his head, and somehow he thinks he ought to control the market.

Just one example....I have always liked WordPerfect because of it's "reveal codes" feature. But, every version through #8 has caused me nothing but problems. I finally reached the point where I was simply wasting my time with it. If you can't beat them join them. So, I went with MS Word and its accompanying Excel. Neither of these programs measure up to what Corel (or whoever owns them now.) Furthermore, I have to have the entire "Office" package which I have absolutely no need for. I spent over \$200 over a year ago to buy "Word" and "Excel." Then I learn that there are no bug fixes, updates, etc for these programs alone. I had to have the entire "Office" package itself. I resent Microsoft's power and control over such situations.

It's not that my computer system is inadequate (far from it). I do not like being forced to have programs which I neither need, nor want. They muddy up the registry, mess with my "start" menu.....in general take up space, including memory, which I want to use the way I want to use it. I believe that is my right. It's one thing to have "Windows," but that's as far as it should go as far as I am concerned.

I have recently upgraded my 2 computer sytems. One has "XP" on it (which I love)....but I have downloaded Sun Microsystems spreadsheed and wordprocessor whitch is getting glowing reviews. On my other system I have "Windows 98 SE," and use Lotus "SmartSuite." I like it, far and above "Office."

I don't know how to curtail Mr. Gates. To give him license to donate computers to as many schools as he wants to is a tax gimmick designed to make you and everyone else happy. I raised 5 children, none of whom had computers in school. They learned just fine. At the Jr. High level I can see where they can be of great use, and provide more learning opportunities. But nothing beats a good teacher who is well versed in his/her subject.

I firmly believe that Mr. Gates should be FORCED (under knowledgeable government supervision) to provide his source codes for all his operating systems. How else can other companies write competitive programs which can run under these operating systems. Microsoft is not the only company which has excellent programmers, and other companies can offer different products.

Don't let this guy get away with what he has done, and probably still doing, because he can afford such a team of lawyers. You need good advice from people who know computers and programming. Please listen to him. Gates has no right to "buy" his way out of his monopolies, etc.

Thank you for your time and the oportunity to voice my opinion.

Very sincerely,  
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